

ACT 264 Advisory Board
via Skype
Meeting Minutes
April 24, 2020

Members present: Alice Maynard, Matt Wolf, Doug Norford, Cinn Smith, Cindy Tabor, Kris Holsman-Francoeur, Teresa Sunderland, Heather Freeman

Guests present: Christina Thompson, Joanne Crawford, Ward Nial, Sandi Yandow, Ron Bos-Lun

Heather Freeman, Education Guidance during COVID-19:

Guidance changes regularly and rapidly so having weekly meetings to stay up to date, some local and some regional. Making sure they are aligning practices across the state and also meeting with National Council of Special Educators. Vermont appears to be so much further ahead than any other state based on these national meetings. VT moved into distance learning plans ahead of the expectation to do so; Discussion at the regional level and implementation at the local level. VT made recommendations that others are following nationally.

Continuity of learning at the local level and outreach to parents and families to support remote learning and negotiate needs for continued learning; remote connection to special educator, resource packets, etc. based on individual needs. Starting with basic needs being met and then tech and access needs and then moving into general education and then into Special Education needs.

Meeting regularly with DA on a weekly basis as well to ensure student needs are being met beyond educational needs. Implementation is pretty consistent across the state. Districts are offering one-on-one support to families to trouble shoot tech needs and personal/emotional/basic needs. There is also COVID-19 guidance on AOE website. Great effort is being put into coordinating and consistency across the state despite there being statewide concerns about implementation and equity across the state. We're still doing better than other states though.

There are definitely concerns about several students and families statewide and everyone is working hard and trying hard. VFFCMH parent support has been helpful too.